

For 'Sea Bed Storage' it had been determined that territorial waters were covered by the London Dumping Convention, however internal waters were not, and Hydrographer of the Navy had identified a number of possible sites between the Outer Hebrides and the Scottish Mainland. DMS(N) had said previous to the meeting that raising and lowering a submarine from the sea bed was feasible; it was therefore agreed at the meeting that the feasibility of sea bed storage should be looked at more closely by Sec(FS)/A, DISM, DMS(N) and DGSR (The final Sea Disposal Working Group had been called to fulfill this task). The aim was to finish the feasibility study by end April in order to incorporate its findings in the revised draft paper for 'H' Committee.

4. Sea Bed Storage

- a. The Working Group discussed this option and it was agreed that the feasibility study should look at all options such as whether to fill the RC with concrete or not. Mr Chandler reported that he had recently finished a draft feasibility study on sea bed storage and took an action to distribute the paper to the members of the Working Group for comment.

Action 14.2 - DGSN/SM505

Although the feasibility study could be complete by end April, Mr Chandler reported that a further 6-7 months would be required to define the scheme sufficiently for any go-ahead to be given.

- b. Security - Sec(FS)/A reported that DNSy had been requested to look at the feasibility of securing the storage site against terrorists, covert operations, etc. SM611 could provide advice on the security-rating of the reactor plant.

c. Lowering/Raising Submarine

To examine the problem of transporting and then lowering the submarine (followed possibly later by its raising), DMS(N) required the location of the sites identified by Hydrographer of the Navy; Sec(FS)/A agreed to forward xerox copies of the relevant chart to DMS(N).

Action 14.3 - Sec(FS)/A

d. Project Management

It was agreed that to produce the feasibility study, the management structure used for sea disposal would be retained. Because of the relatively tight timescale, a second early meeting was required and consequently it was arranged for Wednesday 15 March starting at 1400, with DGSN chairing.

5. Mooring

A feasibility study for the storage of nuclear submarines at moorings was being prepared by Mr Chandler; as for sea bed storage, it was required by end April.

6. Condition of DREADNOUGHT at Rosyth

The Chairman reported that to determine the present overall structural condition of DREADNOUGHT, SM511 had advised that both an underwater survey and an internal survey in the MBTs and pressure hull be carried out. DISM had also advised DGSN that DREADNOUGHT should be docked in the first half of 1990 for a full survey and maintenance.